

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of protecting and executing executable files, the method including protecting an executable file through either of compression and encryption, incorporating a protection descriptor into the executable file, the protection descriptor including information required for unprotecting the executable file, providing the protected executable file to unprotection and execution apparatus operative to unprotect the executable file, unprotecting the protected executable file at the unprotection and execution apparatus using the protection descriptor, and executing the unprotected executable file at the unprotection and execution apparatus.